

REMARKS

Claims 20-66 remain pending in the above-referenced application and are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration. Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 20-43 and 66.

As for the prior art rejections based on Hochstein, it must be mentioned that the design of the sensor in Hochstein is completely different from the sensor in the rejected claims. Ambient light sensor 22 is only used for correcting the values of rain sensor 20 and not for controlling the lighting devices of the motor vehicle, as in the case of the claimed invention. Since the sensor shown in Hochstein is also constructed completely differently and is only capable of detecting the ambient light in a roughly approximate manner, it is not possible to control the lighting devices by means of such a design. Therefore, the claimed invention in claims 44-65 is patentable over Hochstein, either alone or in combination with the various other references relied on by the Examiner.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

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